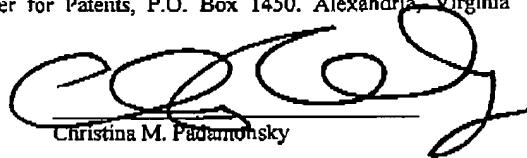


PATENT

MS164185.01/MSFTP215US

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 4-24-06
Christina M. Padamonsky

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
APR 24 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Applicant(s): Eric J. Horvitz, et al.

Examiner: Thomas E. Shortledge

Serial No: 09/896,187

Art Unit: 2654

Filing Date: June 29, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR INFERRING INFORMATIONAL GOALS AND PREFERRED LEVEL OF DETAIL OF ANSWERS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 30, 2006

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and comments below.